



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 8, 2014
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**PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON DRAFT EA
FOR MCCARTY CABIN RESTORATION, ROAD ACCESS AND VAULT LATRINE
AT MAKOSHICA STATE PARK
-Comments Due by Saturday, August 2 -**

(Glendive, MT) –Montana State Parks (stateparks.mt.gov) announced today that the public is invited to comment on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed restoration of the historic McCarty Cabin, road access to the site and creation of a vault latrine. **Comments are due by Saturday, August 2 at 5pm.**

The proposed project is intended to expand existing recreational and interpretive offerings within Makoshika State Park. The proposed project is consistent with park management plan objectives.

The historic McCarty Cabin is in the vicinity of other developed facilities, including the amphitheater, Pine on Rocks campground, a main road and trailhead for the Kinney Coulee Trail. The site is suitable for development with respect to the physical capacity of the site to withstand the proposed modifications, and the site is considered to have relatively stable soils. The potential for disruption or destruction of significant geological, physical and paleontological resources is low in most areas of consideration and mitigation is available and determined to be suitable to offset such disturbances. The Montana State Parks Heritage Program leader completed a cultural survey of the site on June 4th, 2014 and found no evidence of cultural resources that would adversely affected by the project.

No significant changes in air quality are expected. The characteristics of surface water discharge and/or the alteration of surface water quality will not change significantly.

The intent of this project is to accomplish three objectives. The first objective is to restore the cabin for safe use. The historical appearance and cabin size will remain the same. The second objective is to restore the abandoned road to the McCarty Cabin utilizing the existing road footprint and to provide for parking. The road will be 18 feet wide and 600 feet in length. The road surface will contain packed gravel. Road construction will be a width of at least 18 feet

wide and 285 feet in length. In addition to the road, and included in the road length, we will add a loop at the end of the road for parking and ease of exit from the area. The loop will be large enough for parking six vehicles, including a compliant Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking. The third objective is to install a vault latrine in the area. The cabin is expected to generate overnight use and a vault latrine will be needed and installed near the parking loop area space.

Potential uses of the McCarty Cabin include overnight rental for the general public, volunteer housing and serve as an interpretive education center. The loop, parking and latrine will also provide trailhead opportunities with a direct tie in to the Ponderosa Trail.

The cabin and surrounding property have not received any site modifications or modernization following the early 1940s land donation to Dawson County for the purposes of establishing the site as a county park. The cabin and 160 acres surrounding the cabin remained under private ownership during this time. Following the 1953 establishment of Makoshika State Park as a Montana State Park, barrier posts were installed at the entrance to the cabin's access road to restrict access to the property, as the cabin remained in the McCarty's possession until 2010, when it and the surrounding 160 acres reserved by the McCarty's were gifted to Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

The McCarty Cabin suffers from unmitigated decay resulting from environmental exposure, disuse and lack of upkeep.

The cost of this project is estimated at \$50,000 from the Parks' Division capital funding.

The public is invited to comment. To view the draft Environmental Assessment and provide comments online visit: http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0027.html or email: McCartyCabin@mt.gov or mail your comments to, McCarty Cabin Comments 1301 Snyder Avenue, Glendive, MT 59330. Public comments are due by **Saturday, August 2 at 5pm.**

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